

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20, with the following amended paragraph:

Spaced-apart apertures 28 and 30 in longitudinal member 22 receive threaded fasteners 32 and 34 that pivotally secure brackets 14 to frame 12. Aperture 28 is provided at the end of longitudinal member 22 opposite transverse member 24 and aperture 30 is located between aperture 28 and transverse member 24. This configuration offers a gap 36 between brackets 14 that accommodates trailer axle 38 on leaf springs 16 and serves to establish a fulcrum around fastener 34 that dampens road shocks during use.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 4, with the following amended paragraph:

Each bracket 14 includes a base portion 40 and a locking portion 42 that are joined together by a pair of threaded fasteners 32,34. Base portion 40 has a pair of upright legs 46, with apertures 48 in their bottoms for receiving threaded fasteners 44, that are joined at their tops by a crosspiece 50 to form a part resembling an inverted "U". Preferably, crosspiece 50 overlaps both legs 46 so as to project from their outer faces and define retaining flanges 52 on opposite sides of base portion 40 that are each provided with an aperture 54 for receiving a threaded fastener 44. Locking portion 42, however, is a flat plate having apertures 56 located at its opposite ends in registry with apertures 54 and for receiving threaded fasteners 44.